



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

CONTACT: Mark-Elliott Lugo

619-238-6627

858-581-9934

mlugo@san-diego.gov

NOTE TO EDITORS: A varied selection of high resolution, color digital images is available from the library curator on request.

Library Hosts First Retrospective Exhibition of Works by Noted San Diego Artist John Abel *Nearly One Hundred Works to be Displayed*

SAN DIEGO – “John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics, 1977 – 2007,” an exhibition featuring nearly one hundred works by San Diego-area artist John Abel, runs December 9, 2007 through February 3, 2008 in the gallery of the Taylor/Pacific Beach Branch Library. Exhibition-related events include an artist’s reception on Sunday, December 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and an artist’s talk on Saturday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the gallery. The exhibition, reception, and talk are free and open to the public.

Spanning three decades, “John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics” is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition ever organized of this artist’s works. Recent paintings of popular favorites, such as landscapes and depictions of old, abandoned vehicles, are included, along with figurative paintings and drawings that reflect Abel’s lifelong interest in the more eccentric aspects of human nature. The majority of these works, especially the drawings and recent paintings, have never been exhibited. A unique treasure stored for many years in the artist’s studio archives and displayed in this exhibition is a series of small etchings that capture the nostalgia and sadness evoked by battered, aging cars and trucks.

– more –

Although Abel's roots are as an illustrator, the technical skills he has acquired over the years, combined with a dark, poetic vision, have enabled him to transcend the genre. His works can be read on a number of different levels, and, despite their relatively intimate scale, are powerful, beautiful, and thought-provoking. This exhibition, which is accompanied by a full-color catalogue, will likely earn Abel legions of new admirers. Those already familiar with Abel's art will be thrilled with his recent paintings, as well as gaining added insight into his work as a whole.

The Pacific Beach/Taylor Library is open seven days a week and is located at 4275 Cass Street. Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program is a nationally recognized series of exhibitions, lectures, a television program, and other art-related activities. The mission of the Program is to demonstrate the Library's role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines, while assisting San Diego's mid-career and older professional artists in achieving wider local, regional, and national attention. Visual Arts Program exhibitions are made possible, in part, by contributions from individuals, volunteer efforts, and the Friends of Central Library. For more information about the Abel exhibition or the Visual Arts Program, the public can contact the library curator at (619) 238-6627 or visit the Library's website at www.sandiegolibrary.org

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

#